Copa-Cogeca welcomed the EU move to re-impose anti-dumping duty on tinned mandarins imports flooding in from China but warned that the EU decision must apply retroactively for 2012-13.

Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen insisted “I am pleased that the EU Council adopted new rules re-imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of tinned mandarins from China. Last January, we urged the Commission to reinstate an anti-dumping duty immediately as further postponement would have a “devastating effect” on EU producers. These imports do not have to respect the same costly rules and obligations and food safety standards as those applied in the EU – there are huge production and labour cost differentials. Production costs in the EU reach 11-12 euros/11 oz Fob whilst Chinese production costs total 6.30 euros/11 oz Fob. But for tinned mandarins, anti-dumping measures must be applied at the start of the season, namely in November/December 2012”.

He continued: “We are now already towards the end of February and this Regulation was agreed quite late in the season. If these measures are not introduced with a retroactive effect from the start of the 2012/13 marketing year, the Regulation will have much less impact. Copa-Cogeca therefore urges the EU Commission to apply them retroactively, otherwise the whole processed citrus fruit sector will be put at risk and competitiveness and jobs in rural areas, especially in southern countries which are already suffering a severe recession, will be threatened”.

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